

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 9

~~Argument in Favor of the Crime Victims Bill of Rights Act of 2008: Marsy's Law~~
~~FINAL - As of July 8, 2008~~
~~Word Count: 500~~

No pain is worse than losing a child or a loved one to murder...EXCEPT WHEN THE PAIN IS MAGNIFIED BY A SYSTEM THAT PUTS CRIMINALS' RIGHTS AHEAD OF THE RIGHTS OF INNOCENT VICTIMS.

The pain is real. It's also unnecessary to victims and costly to taxpayers.

Marsy Nicholas was a 21 year old college student at UC Santa Barbara studying to become a teacher for disabled children. Her boyfriend ended her promising life with a shotgun blast at close range. Due to a broken system, the pain of losing Marsy was just the beginning.

Marsy's mother, Marcella, and family were grieving, experiencing pain unlike anything they'd ever felt. The only comfort was the fact Marsy's murderer was arrested.

Imagine Marcella's agony when she came face-to-face with Marsy's killer days later...at the grocery store!

How could he be free? He'd just killed Marcella's little girl. This can't be happening, she thought. Marsy's killer was free on bail but her family wasn't even notified. He could've easily killed again.

CALIFORNIA'S CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES RIGHTS FOR RAPISTS, MURDERERS, CHILD MOLESTERS AND DANGEROUS CRIMINALS.

PROPOSITION 9 LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD, GUARANTEEING CRIME VICTIMS THE RIGHT TO JUSTICE AND DUE PROCESS, ending further victimization of innocent people by a system that frequently neglects, ignores and forever punishes them.

**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**

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Proposition 9 creates California's Crime Victims Bill of Rights to:

- REQUIRE THAT A VICTIM AND THEIR FAMILY'S SAFETY MUST BE CONSIDERED BY JUDGES MAKING BAIL DECISIONS FOR ACCUSED CRIMINALS.
- Mandate that crime victims be notified if their offender is released.
- REQUIRE VICTIMS BE NOTIFIED OF PAROLE HEARINGS IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE THEY CAN ATTEND AND HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HEARD.
- Require that victims be notified and allowed to participate in critical proceedings related to the crime, including bail, plea bargain, sentencing and parole hearings.
- Give victims a constitutional right to prevent release of their personal confidential information or records to criminal defendants.

During these difficult budget times, PROP. 9 PROTECTS TAXPAYERS.

Currently, taxpayers spend millions on hearings for dangerous criminals that have virtually no chance of release. "Helter Skelter" inmates Bruce Davis and Leslie Van Houten, followers of Charles Manson, convicted of multiple brutal murders, have had 38 parole hearings in 30 years. That's 38 times the families involved have been forced to relive the painful crime and pay their own expenses to attend the hearing, plus 38 hearings that taxpayers have had to subsidize.

Prop. 9 allows parole judges to increase the number of years between parole hearings. CALIFORNIA'S NON-PARTISAN LEGISLATIVE ANALYST SAID IT

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ACHIEVES, “POTENTIAL NET SAVINGS IN THE LOW TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS...”

PROP. 9 ALSO PREVENTS POLITICIANS FROM RELEASING DANGEROUS INMATES TO ALLEVIATE PRISON OVERCROWDING.

Prop. 9 respects victims, protects taxpayers and makes California safer. It’s endorsed by public safety leaders, victims’ advocates, taxpayers and working families.

PROP. 9 IS ABOUT FAIRNESS FOR LAW ABIDING CITIZENS. They deserve rights equal to those of criminals.

**ON BEHALF OF ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE CRIME VICTIMS,
PLEASE VOTE YES ON 9!**

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